

# Annual Report 2007-2008

*Breaking down  
barriers.*

*Being bearers of  
good news.*

*Building integrated  
communities.*

*A living example  
of the unity of  
Christ's body.*



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Charitable Registration No: 86399 3440 RR 0001

# Message from the President



*Madeline Johnson, Founder and President of CESLM*

“Make obedience-based decisions, not outcome-based” has been on my fridge for a number of years. Though counter to traditional management style, it reminds me of who is the real Founder of CESLM.

Yes, I was shocked by Canada’s falling birthrate (below replacement levels), and I foresaw the impact that our increasing need for immigrants and foreign workers would have on society, together with the implications of both of these trend-lines for the Church. I could feel hope, determination and frustration in our newcomers as they tried their best to “make good,” to contribute, to recover their voice and sense of competence—all in a new language. But it was not enough.

Why did I give the last six years of my life to labour without salary as president and voluntary Executive Director of the Cooperative ESL Ministries?

“People will do for love what they won’t do for money.” God loved the world so much that He gave His best. Jesus laid aside His privileges, to bring us back into relationship through His sacrifice on the cross. Amazingly, when we accept His gift of grace, God’s Holy Spirit now lives within us. For this I am profoundly grateful. Though imperfect, my service has been my love-gift back to God. I believe this same love propels each of the Board, helpers, and leaders of the church-based ESL programs.

From 1999 we “cast the vision.” By late 2000 enough people joined hearts to plan our first training event (“Nothing Christian should ever be shoddy”) held in January 2001. I was still Director of Agape Language Centre at that time, but Christians from many different denominations joined hands together, making CESLM and this training possible. They “built the wall”... for they “had a mind to work.” (Neh. 4:6)

Non-profit Society status was achieved in 2002 and status as a federally regulated Charity in 2004. Together CESLM has offered nine Training Conferences, five (this Fall) 30-Hr. Training Events, four Networking Luncheons and one complimentary Leadership Brunch. Twelve separate Intercultural Workshops and 40 church-based ESL programs networked through CESLM are testimony to what God has done.

Trainees have come from Edmonton, Red Deer, Brooks, Clive, and Lethbridge, as well as Calgary area, plus we have connections in Grande Prairie and Winnipeg. Toronto and Vancouver have since formed networks among the church-based ESL programs in their cities and we have a fledgling National Network. "See what God hath wrought!" (Num 23:23)

I had no idea of what God would do when I said "yes," and was willing to make major adjustments in my life, determining to "join God in what He was doing." Trading time, energy and money for impact and obedience has been worth it. To see God at work—what a privilege! "Neither will I offer to the Lord that which costs me nothing." (2 Sam. 24:24)

God is good. We thank Him for the grants through Alberta Employment and Immigration, which has made possible our Intercultural Workshops, our upgraded website, and now our Training Events Coordinator, but we don't want to build the program on government money. We thank Him for the 16 donors this year (almost \$14,000), seven via automatic bank transfers (FaithLife Financial). Three churches so far have us in their outreach budget. We received our first gift of stocks this year (see [www.LinkCharity.ca](http://www.LinkCharity.ca)), and you can access us through [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org). Core funding from Christians is our goal.

"I was a stranger and you welcomed Me" (Matt. 25:35) is the commendation of the King we hope to hear. We're helping the churches put this into practice. According to the prayer of Jesus in John 17, to see the world "believe," is directly correlated to our demonstrated unity (vs. 21 and 23).

I'm so thankful for Kennedy Thompson willing to become president in October. A former lawyer in Nigeria, Kenny has the spiritual depth, the combination of competence and reliance on God, and the people skills to give leadership to the Board. All Board members along with Bev Chambers, Olivia Kitt, Myra Brown, and Gisela Rohde (Curriculum Revision) are God's gift to CESLM, through the finances of AE&I and faithful donors. We invite you, too, to be a part of this society-transforming ministry. Leave a legacy!

- Madeline Johnson

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# About CESLM

*Churches as societies' leaders, welcoming and integrating newcomers to Canada.*

Cooperative ESL Ministries (CESLM) Society is a group of local Calgary residents who have come together to fill a gap we have seen in our city's integration of the immigrant, refugee, and international community. We believe that ordinary, open-hearted Calgarians, with training in cross-cultural communication and good principles of adult education for language learners, can make a difference.

CESLM is a network of associations composed of many volunteers, crossing many borders of belief, but who share a common commitment to the God whose love we have experienced. We are Christian, from many different backgrounds. We are non-sectarian and will not proselytize. We will advocate for understanding and appreciation of people whose culture and language is different.

**Our Mission:** Empowering churches to reach out in love through ESL to the internationals and immigrants in our community.

**Our Vision:** Churches as societies' leaders, welcoming and integrating newcomers to Canada.

## What We Do

1. Support cooperative ESL (English as a Second Language) ministries - we offer conferences, workshops, and training sessions to current and prospective ESL teachers, directors, administrators, conversation partners, home-stay parents, and other volunteers involved in an ESL ministry in Calgary. We also provide forums for churches, ESL teachers and volunteers to network with one another.
2. Advocate on behalf of newcomers - we do consciousness-raising among faith groups in Calgary, encouraging openness and involvement and reducing barriers. This involves audio-visuals, print materials, and presentations to various community groups.
3. Act as a referral agent to other service providers - we provide referrals to specialized services for internationals such as employment training/ services, settlement/housing issues, medical and life skills, citizenship, further academic training, English for professionals, and more.

# Year in Review

## Successful Training Events

Fall 30-Hour Training: attended by 35 trainees, held at Oak Park Church of Christ, Altador Baptist, and St. David's United Church.

Leaders Brunch: this complimentary brunch was held for 29 leaders in church-based ESL programs. Reg Graves of Canadian Bible Society in Calgary presented each leader with a whole Good News Bible.

Networking Luncheon - "Joining God in What He is Doing": attended by 48 people from 35 different churches. We heard reports from each of the outreaches present. Key note speaker: Mark Jantzen.

Spring Conference - "Loving My (New) Neighbour's Family": attended by nearly 100 people, representing over 43 different churches in and around Calgary. Key note speakers: Derrick Shirley (GoHarmony) and Jack Toth (Impact Society).

## New Staff Members

Coordinator, Community Relations & Advocacy: Olivia Kitt was hired for this position in April 2008. The primary responsibility of this role is to initiate and maintain association with churches, immigrant-serving agencies, ethnic communities, and past and present CESLM members and associates.

Coordinator, Training Events & Financial Administration: Myra Brown was hired for this position in August 2008. The role involves planning and administration of Volunteer Training Events, assisting the President and Treasurer in ensuring that regulatory needs are met, and drafting financial reports as required.

Intercultural Workshop Facilitators: As of September 2008, five individuals have begun training as Intercultural Workshop Facilitators.

## Church-Based ESL Programs

As of September 2008, there were 42 church-based ESL programs connected with CESLM, including one in Red Deer, Alberta, and another in Brooks, Alberta. This number is up from approximately 30 to 35 church-based ESL programs connected with CESLM last year - a growth rate of almost 40 percent!

## External Connections

- Several of our Directors are members of Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language (ATESL) and attended the ATESL Conference in Calgary.
- Members of Calgary Learns and Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (CCVO).
- Worked with Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) towards their first Intercultural Symposium in Calgary, 2007.
- 100 Huntley St. TV interviewed CESLM and ran it at least 3 times.
- We participate in the Calgary Evangelical Ministerial Association (CEMA) and the NW Immigrant-Serving Agencies group.
- Several Directors took Intensive Training for ELT through Virginia Sauve's Portals Co.
- Partnering with VCF in a Pioneer Summer Camp was explored.
- Founding member of Interculture: a National Network of ESL Ministries.



## A Christian Ministry by Kennedy Thompson



*Kennedy Thompson,  
new elected President of CESLM,  
September 2008*

CESLM is a Christian Ministry, whose focus is to help integrate newcomers or immigrants to our city, Calgary, by fostering the cooperation of local churches and residents. I like to describe CESLM members as a potpourri of men and women with the heart to serve, brought together by God for his glory. It is inspiring as we see God work in and through us. Our membership is drawn from different churches within Calgary; therefore we look to churches for support.

### WHY CARE FOR IMMIGRANTS?

While we were still strangers God sent his Son to die for us:

Eph. 2:12 - That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenant of promise, having no hope and without God in the world:  
2:13 - But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. (KJV)

The hallmark of our Christian faith is that we are a people of grace. Simply put, grace is the unmerited love of God bestowed on man. The only way we can truly express our gratitude to God for his unconditional love towards us is by extending the same grace to others unconditionally, irrespective of their religion or culture.

Kay Arthur, in her book "Lord Give Me a Heart for You" puts it succinctly as follows:

Life takes on different values as more and more we see  
The world for what it is – temporal. And we understand  
That people are eternal – so we want to invest in them.  
We want to help them as we have been helped of God.

I can say with all humility that God has been very gracious to me and my family. We have had the privilege of enjoying the hospitality of total strangers. I know how it feels to receive, and it is important to give back to others the same love and kindness that we have received.

In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus reminds the disciples of the need to be hospitable to strangers; Christians are urged to continue in brotherly love. Brotherly love should not be limited to those in our congregation or people of the same faith as ours. It must be extended to strangers, otherwise it would not meet God's standard.

Heb. 13:1 - Let brotherly love continue.

13:2 - Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unaware. (KJV)

#### THE MISSION FIELD IS RELOCATING

Guess where the new address is? It's your backyard. The government of Canada is looking to attract about 50,000 immigrants/internationals to Alberta in 2008 alone, majority of whom will end up in Calgary. The Church must rise up and fill the gap that now exists in the integration of the new immigrant into our society. Canada is known as one of the most culturally diverse nations of the world. We have people migrate to Canada from all over the world, and we must help to make them feel welcome. Much more than that: we must help integrate them into our society. My vision is to see the church become the beacon of hope and support, to new immigrants.

We need to be proactive by reaching out to new immigrants, learning about their culture and helping them learn about ours. To be effective in this ministry we need to put ourselves in the shoes of new immigrants.

Heb. 13:3 - Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them;  
And them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body. (KJV)

Churches must cooperate if we are to achieve our goal; we need to exchange ideas and resources. CESLM is poised to be that tool by and through which God will fulfill this need in our city. We recognize that we can not do this alone. We need your prayers and support. Missionary work does not have to be abroad. The world has come to you. The need is right at your door. May not be in Africa, but it is equally as important. Please pray for us.

*"Be not forgetful to  
entertain strangers:  
for thereby some have  
entertained angels  
unaware."*

# Intercultural Project Report



*Bev Chambers,  
Intercultural Project Coordinator*

During the past year CESLM was blessed with a grant from Alberta Employment and Immigration to fund the Intercultural Project. The objectives of the project were to raise intercultural awareness, to promote the development of intercultural appreciation, to promote understanding of intercultural barriers and issues, to provide volunteers with the opportunity to learn intercultural communication strategies, and to support churches in their efforts to welcome and be inclusive of immigrants and their families.

The project included the development of an Intercultural Information Package, the design of Intercultural Communication Workshop, and the development of participant materials for the workshops. Overall, the Intercultural Project was very successful; in fact, the results substantially exceeded the parameters set in the grant contract.

In total, 15 Intercultural Workshops were delivered to 265 participants. Thirteen of the workshops were delivered at Calgary churches. One was delivered at CrossRoads Church in Red Deer and one was delivered as a fee-for-service workshop to the staff of LEAD Foundation (a not-for-profit organization that works with autistic children and their families).

Participant evaluations were completed at each workshop and the results and comments were used to make revisions or additions to the workshop design, information and materials, as needed. As a result of participant evaluations we found that 98.75% found the workshop to be useful, 99.38% learned something about intercultural issues, and 95.63% learned some strategies for intercultural communication. Response from participants has been very positive and enthusiastic. The participant evaluations emphasize the importance of the work we are doing – in training people who are willing and able to help newcomers settle into our community.

In addition to the Intercultural information and workshops CESLM also developed a large data base of churches and individuals (270+) for distributing information and announcements of CESLM activities and events. Monthly Newsletters were produced and distributed electronically beginning in June of 2007, and I was happy to pass this responsibility over to Olivia Kitt when she began in April as Coordinator, Community Relations and Advocacy.



## Personal Reflections on the Intercultural Project

Although I have more than twenty-five years of experience working as an adult educator in church programs and in Adult ESL, my current position is the most satisfying job I have ever held. Being the Intercultural Project Coordinator has allowed me to serve God by training Christian volunteers so they can reach out with the love of Jesus Christ to the immigrants and internationals in our community. This integration of serving God, by using my training and years of experience in ESL and in the church, produces an amazingly “right” feeling of being where God wants me to be.

The Intercultural Project has been received very well. Comments and questions have been positive. Churches and individuals that have participated in events or met with us are very enthusiastic about the help and resources that we have to offer. I have been invited to give workshops in churches of many different denominations and have been met with a wonderfully warm welcome every time.

It has been a great pleasure to work with Madeline Johnson and to share her vision and passion for this ministry. I have also enjoyed working with the members of the CESLM Board, especially Kathleen Siemens, Gisela Rohde and Drinda Wilson who have helped me so much with resources and support. I particularly want to thank Gail Kastning who helped with the design of the workshops and materials and with whom I co-facilitate most of the workshops. As a staff member, I feel full of joy and gratitude for the Christian friendship and the wonderful prayer support that I have received from the Board and from other staff and volunteers.

This is an exciting time for CESLM as we move forward with two additional years of funding from Alberta Employment and Immigration. This funding has already allowed the hiring of two new Coordinators and provided for the training of five additional Intercultural Facilitators - strengthening our organization so that we can serve God even better as we continue to join Christians from different churches and denominations together in service to our community.

- Bev Chambers, Intercultural Project Coordinator

*... the most satisfying  
job I have ever held.*

# Community Relations Report



*Olivia Kitt, Coordinator,  
Community Relations &  
Advocacy*

Since joining CESLM as Coordinator, Community Relations & Advocacy, I have been inspired by the community's enthusiasm in welcoming newcomers to Calgary. There are over 40 church-based ESL programs in Calgary right now, representing 23 different denominations. This emphasizes not only a recognized need in the Christian community to reach out to newcomers through ESL classes, conversation groups, and Bible studies, but also a willingness to come together for a common purpose, despite differences in doctrinal beliefs or ways of worshipping God. Throughout history, Christians working together have shown that through Him, all things are possible (remember the human rights movement led by Martin Luther King Jr.).

Maintaining contact with the community is done in several ways. A monthly newsletter is currently being distributed to over 150 individuals, keeping them up to date on related events, providing information on immigrant-serving agencies for referral, and informing them of the latest immigration news. In addition, a monthly ESL Teacher & Volunteer Support Group gives individuals a chance to network, share ideas for facilitation, develop partnerships between churches, and support one another in an effort to reach out to newcomers.

In May 2008 a survey was sent to all ESL program facilitators to assess how the programs are currently doing, and how CESLM could help. Of those who responded, 45% reported having sustained their ESL ministry for six to 10 years, showing success among established programs. Results also indicated that facilitators are in need of additional training opportunities, intercultural workshops, and increased ability to connect with newcomers. CESLM is already responding to the need for more intercultural workshops, and is in the process of hiring five new Intercultural Workshop Facilitators. One goal for the coming year is to develop greater connections between Calgary's newcomers and the Christian community, with CESLM as a bridge for communication.

Approximately 70 individuals joined CESLM's mission by becoming Associate Members in the past year. This year CESLM will focus on encouraging churches and organizations to further support our mission by becoming Professional Associates. Together, God's love will be shown.

- Olivia Kitt, Coordinator, Community Relations & Advocacy

# An Escalating Conviction

Late in the Spring of 2008, CESLM posted an opening for “Coordinator, Training Events and Financial Administration”. This half-time position for a one year period was made possible by funding from Alberta Employment and Immigration. The job posting’s responsibilities were listed as being primarily the planning and organizing of CESLM events as well as some financial administrative duties.

As CESLM began to advertise this opening, I was coming to the end of a transitional year in my life. After having spent about 28 years as a career missionary and then having spent an entire year adjusting to my new life as a Calgarian, I had been praying for new opportunities to be an active Christ-follower in today’s Calgary. I particularly dreamed of supporting women who have just moved to Canada so they in turn could be the godly matriarchs their families need.

As I started to learn about CESLM and then as I was interviewed by Madeline Johnson, Charlie Hunter and Bev Chambers, I had an escalating conviction this was an organization whose values I shared and whose leaders I admired. It seemed God was confirming in my spirit that CESLM was His place for me at this time.

Since starting work August 1st its been my privilege to work with Madeline Johnson, Gisela Rhode, Bev Chambers and Olivia Kitt as we are putting together the 2008 30-hour ESL teacher training event. I look forward to eventually meeting all members of the CESLM family and to working with them “to see churches as society’s leaders in welcoming & integrating newcomers to Canada.” For His glory.

- Myra Brown  
Coordinator, Training Events & Financial Administration



*Myra Brown,  
Coordinator, Training  
Events & Financial  
Administration*

New This Year: We are looking forward to bringing in training for “ALPHA for ESOL” (English for Speakers of Other Languages), likely in March 2009.

# The CESLM Board & Staff



*Jay Holdner, newly elected  
Vice-President*



*Kimberly Ma, Treasurer, with  
husband Mark Ma Min*



*Julie Lo, Director*

## **Board Members (2007/2008):**

Madeline Johnson - President  
Kennedy Thompson - Vice-President (newly elected President)  
Jay Holdner - newly elected Vice-President  
Kimberly Ma - Treasurer  
Cathy Smith - newly elected Treasurer  
Charlie Hunter - Secretary  
Barbara Van Fraassen - Director  
Dan Lodovica - Director  
Drinda Wilson - Director  
Gisela Rohde - Director  
Julie Lo - Director  
Kathleen Siemens - Director  
Merril Humphrey - Director  
Ray Chan - Director  
Sylvia Gerrard - Director

## **Part-time Staff Members/Contracts:**

Beverley Chambers - Intercultural Project Coordinator  
Olivia Kitt - Coordinator, Community Relations & Advocacy  
Myra Brown - Coordinator, Training Events & Financial Administration  
Gail Kastning - Intercultural Workshop Facilitator  
Arlayna Alcock - Catering and Facilities (2007 30 Hour Training)  
Amy Chandler - PowerPoint Presentations  
Esther Aichele - Bookkeeper  
Stephen Ford - Website



Top row:  
Cathy Smith,  
Bev Chambers,  
Myra Brown,  
Gisela Rohde,  
Dan Lodovica.  
Bottom row:  
Merril Humphrey,  
Madeline Johnson,  
Kenny Thompson,  
Drinda Wilson

# Special Thanks to...

CESLM is grateful to all our donors and funders for their continued support and faith in this organization.

## **Funders:**

Alberta Employment and Immigration

## **Donors:**

Barry and Jessie Johnson  
Charlie Hunter  
Darryl McDonald  
David Johnson  
Esther Aichele  
Gisela Rohde  
Jack & Janice Lavender  
Joanna Chang  
Julie Lo  
Kelly & Barb Johnson

Linda Easthouse  
Mark Jantzen  
Melvin & Madeline Johnson  
Norman & Bev Chambers  
Ralph Johnson  
Stephen Diamond  
Taiwanese Canadian Association of  
Calgary (TCAC)

## **Sponsoring Associates:**

First Alliance Church  
Foothills Alliance Church  
St. James Anglican Church

## **Teaching Associates:**

Alice Anderson  
Alice Smedes  
Annette Lengyel-May  
Arron Warner  
Barb Klatt  
Bettie Orchard  
Bonnie Sturgeon  
Brenda Kloiber  
Brian Dunkerley  
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